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Education

Surcharge on the Coimbatore Municipality for closure of the schools in commemoration of the visit of Mahatma Gandhi.

* 574 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Coimbatore Municipal Council has been recently surcharged for giving a holiday to the schools in honour of Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Coimbatore;

(*b*) what the amount collected or likely to be collected is as a result of the surcharge; and

(*c*) what the reasons were that led the Government to surcharge?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government are not aware that action has been taken against the Council under the surcharge rules.

(*c*) The power to surcharge is vested in the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts.

Diwan Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether Government have received no representation? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" Representation was received from a municipal councillor, but as surcharge is made by the Inspector of Local Fund Accounts and as Government do not deal with the matter without an appeal being received, Government have not taken any action."

Diwan Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIAR:—" Has there been no representation from the municipal council? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" There is no surcharge yet and there cannot be an appeal unless there is a surcharge."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I know, Sir, whether it is the intention of the Government to permit such surcharges, in the interests of the administration of local bodies and municipalities?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" I cannot give any answer with regard to the intentions of the Government on any hypothetical question in a matter like this."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether the Government are aware that the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts has issued a notice of surcharge on the municipal council? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" That is not surcharge. It is only on receipt of such a notice that the municipal councillors sent a representation to the Government."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the notice issued by the Inspector of Local Fund Accounts to show cause why the municipal councillors should not be surcharged, is in order? "

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The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"That is, I think, the usual notice."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government will consider favourably the question of waiver of such surcharge if such an application is made?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"When the time comes, the matter will receive the most careful consideration of the Government."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether Government do not consider that the issue of a preliminary notice by the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts will not constitute action taken by the authorities?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I do not consider so, until the actual surcharge is made."

Surcharge on the Coimbatore Municipality for closure of the schools on the 5th January 1934 in commemoration of the visit of Mahatma Gandhi.

* 575 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Council of Coimbatore has been surcharged for having closed their schools on the 5th January 1934 on account of the visit of Mahatma Gandhi to their town during his Harijan tour; and

(*b*) if so, whether a copy of the order will be placed on the table?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) of question No. 574.

Expulsion of Mr. Chathu of Kottayam from the Training School for alleged participation in the civil disobedience movement.

* 576 *Q.*—Mrs. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Chathu of Kottayam taluk, after being admitted as a student of the training class, was dismissed after a couple of months and after the payment of fees on the ground that he had taken part in the civil disobedience movement; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the District Educational Officer served a notice on the managers of aided elementary schools that nobody who had taken part in the civil disobedience movement should be allowed to act as teachers in their schools?

A.—(*a*) The District Educational Officer, Malabar, recently ordered the discharge from the Government Training School, Calicut, of a student named Padiyullath Chathu who had been admitted into the school in July on his discovering that he had been convicted in connexion with the civil disobedience movement in 1932.

(*b*) No such notices have been issued.